

THE
Life, Birth and Character,
Of the Right Honourable
ROBERT Earl of Oxford,
Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain, &c.



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The Life and Glorious Character, &c.

THE Right Honourable *Robert* Earl of *Oxford* and *Mortimer*, is descended from a very antient Family of the *Harleys* on the Father's side, which arrived from *Normandy* with *William* the Conqueror, and on his Mother's side descended of the Noble Family of the *Vere's*, late Earl of *Oxford*, whose Family came hither at the same time, and whose worthy Progenitors settling in *Radnor-shire* in *Wales*, where they have continued ever since in a Rich and flourishing Condition.

This Noble Peer was born in the Year 1663 at *Radnor*, and having a liberal Education bestowed upon him, he was sent to *Jesus College* in *Oxford*, when he was about 15 Years of Age, where he much improving himself in his Studies, he withdrew himself from the University and came up to *London*, where about the twentieth Year of his Age he was admitted a Member of the Honourable Society of *Lincoln's-Inn*, and after he was call'd to the Bar, his great Knowledge in the Law, solid Judgment, assiduous Industry, and faithful Management of his Cli-

ents Causes, begat him so much Practice, that he was oblig'd (for his own ease) to refuse a great deal of Business, and recommend it others who had more occasion for it; but tho' he so early got great Credit and Reputation in the World, yet he hearken'd with more safety to his own Conscience, than the Peoples Acclamations; and had much rather know himself Worthy, than be told he was so.

Being look'd upon (as he always truly was) a faithful Patriot of his Country, he was in the Reign of *K William* unanimously Chosen a Member of Parliament for the Town of *Radnor*, in which being a Representative of the People, he always acted to the great Satisfaction and Liking of those that chose him; and it is to be observ'd, he was always so little Affected with Pride, that in his Habit you might always observe such a Gravity as beseem'd a Christian, and yet such a Decency as became a Gentleman.

After the happy Accession of *Queen Anne* to the Crown, being again a Member of Parliament, his penetrating Judgment, grave Demeanour, and Loyal Integrity, being evidently discern'd by the other Members, he was chosen Speaker of the Honourable House of Commons; in which station, whenever he resum'd the Chair, the Quality of his Discourse was Grave and Noble, Serious and Weighty, and yet always rather what was fit to be spoken, than what he was able to speak.

After-

Afterwards his great natural as well as acquired Parts, making him to be to took notice of at Court, his Honour was made own of her Majesty's Principle Secretaries of State, however this Preferment could not abate any thing of his Sincerity and honest Inclinations; Self-Interest could not bring him in Love with a Lie, nor could he look upon a fashionable Hypocrite with a more favourable Eye, than upon a glorious Cheat. In this eminent Station he acted with all the Loyalty, and Justness that could be desired by those either above, or below him; but when the Villanious Greg most treacherously kept a secret Correspondence with France, that Traytor's being a Clerk in the Secretary Office, giving malicious People an Occasion to cast false Reflections on his Honour's Fidelity and Innocence of that matter, he satisfied their unjust Ingratitude by resigning up his Place; whereby the State was depriv'd of a great Minister, whose Virtues seem'd to be so much the more necessary and natural Emanation of his most active and boundless Soul, that he was (as his Honour is still) in Danger, by being altogether good of losing the Praise and Honour due to so eminent a Goodness, so conspicuously shining every Day in him more and more.

However after this Resignment of his Place his Honour still subjugating his Will unto Reason, and this to Religion, by which means it comes to pass that he never missed of having his own free Choice in all Things, his great Worth and

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Merit being still ey'd by his Royal Mistress, some-
time after she was graciously pleased to make him
Chancellor of the Exchequer; though all the time
that many of his Enmies, who were evil Coun-
cellors in the late Ministry, strove to keep him
out of Favour of Court, yet let the Storm and
Tempest threaten never so loudly a splitting and
a Rack to other unballanced Souls, he knew not
how to fear, whilst his Courage was his Anchor,
and Innocence his safe Harbour. His Integrity
to her Majesty's Interest and Welfare, the Queen
was graciously pleased to recall him to Court, to
the inexpressible Joy of a great many indigent
Persons in London, who know his Honour's ge-
nerous Temper is such, that every Piece of Money
he hath, bears as well the Impression and Image
of his Charity as that of his Sovereign; which
latter makes him value the Coyn more, and the
and the Gold or Silver less. He is that true
Briareus, which has as many Hands, as he meets
with Receivers; and for this Cause he is look'd
upon as a Monster, in these latter Days, and ve-
ry rarely to be met with.

But as his Merit claim'd the Queen's Favour
daily more and more, in that to his Endeavours
we owe the Change of the late Ministry, which
aim'd at the Overthrow of the Church of Eng-
land; the Restoring Publick Credit; the Re-
lieving this Nation from an immense Debt to the
Navy, without any Tax, by settling a Trade in
the South-Seas, and more especially for putting
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our Establish'd Church in a better Condition, it was his pious Invention, to Build 50 more Churches by the continuance of a small Duty on Coals, in order to provide for the Welfare of the Soul as well as the Body; her Majesty thought him not unworthy of permitting him to act as one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; but whilst that Trust was imposed on him, his Honour being appointed one of the Committee who was to Examine the Marquis *de Guiscard*, a *French* Emisary, at the *Cock-Pit*, on *Thursday* the 8th of *March*, 1710-11, for some Treasonable Practices, his Loyalty obliging him to be very strict in the Examination of the said perfidious Person, the Villain, struck with the Horrour of his Guilt, in a wild Despair, he stabbed his Honour with a Penknife into the Breast, so dangerously that his Life was despair'd of, but thro' the Blessings of God, and Skilful Surgeons, after two Months Illness, he happily Recover'd: But for this barbarous Action, the Honourable *Henry St. John*, Esq; one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, wounded the *French* Ruffian, who being committed to *Newgate*, he there shortly after died, thro' his own obstinacy, in concealing his Wound from the Surgeon, till it grew incurable. Thus died that Villain who wou'd have Murder'd one of the best of Men, because he was Just in the Execution of his Office.

For this Barbarity both Houses of Parliament Address'd Her Majesty, with the highest Resentments of so foul a Deed; and after his Honour was recover'd of his Wounds, the Right Honourable the Speaker of the House of *Commons* made a most eloquent Speech to him, upon his first coming into their House again, to congratulate his happy Recovery. And since to retaliate his steady Loyalty, her Majesty hath been graciously pleas'd to shew farther Marks of her Royal Favours towards his Honour, by creating him Earl of *Oxford* and *Mortimer*, Lord *High Treasurer* of Great Britain, and one of her most Honourable Privy-Council; as being sensible she could not better bestow those Honours on a more deserving Person than him, who holds it much more desirable to live a Beggar than die a Traytor.

'Tis true his Lordship had a plentiful Estate left him to live upon, of
about

about Four Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, besides his own Improvements; so that he had no occasion to trouble himself with the most weighty Affairs of the State; therefore as he refuses no Impleyment which may render him according to the Measure of his great Abilities, serviceable to his Country, so is he no ways ambitious of being advanc'd above what he was before: And it is not to be doubted but that his Lordship (*maugre* all his Enemies) will discharge his Trust with that Fidelity which will be sure to gain him, tho' perhaps the hatred of the Bad, yet the Applause and Love of the Good, and the unanimous Thanks of his Country.

F I N I S.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.
THE London Gazette, printed in the Year
 1666: giving an account of the Tryals and
 Condemnation of William Nicolson for contriving the
 Burning of the City of London.

† A New Toast to the Queen and Earl of Oxford,
 Both sold by the Printer of this Paper.

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